

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A method for preventing biological adhesion comprising the steps of:

providing an adhesion preventive material comprising a crosslinking polysaccharide derivative containing at least one active ester group introduced in a polysaccharide side chain, and at least one hydroxyl group, wherein the active ester group of the crosslinking polysaccharide derivative which is capable of reacting with the hydroxyl group of its own molecular chain or with a hydroxyl group of a second molecular chain, an active hydrogen-containing group, reacting wherein the adhesion preventive material in the presence of water in a biological site under an alkaline condition does not contain a crosslinking agent,

forming a crosslinked an ester polymerization material crosslinked due to covalent binding of the active ester group of the crosslinking polysaccharide derivative and the active hydrogen-containing hydroxyl group of its own molecular chain or the hydroxyl group of the second molecular chain, when the adhesion preventive material is under an alkaline condition,

wherein the method is effective to prevent biological adhesion in the biological site.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the ~~active hydrogen-containing~~ hydroxyl group is ~~active hydrogen-containing a~~ hydroxyl group on a biological surface, and the polysaccharide derivative is capable of adhering to the biological surface.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the active ester group is an ester group in which an electrophilic group is bound to a carbonyl carbon thereof.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the electrophilic group is a group introduced from an N-hydroxyamine based compound.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide derivative contains the active ester group in an amount of from 0.1 to 2 mmoles/g on the basis of the dry weight thereof.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide derivative further contains a carboxyl group and/or a carboxyalkyl group.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide derivative is of a non-salt type.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein a raw material polysaccharide into which the active ester group is introduced is a polysaccharide which is soluble in an aprotic polar solvent at a temperature between 60 °C and 120 °C in a non-salt type thereof in a precursor stage of the crosslinking polysaccharide derivative containing a carboxyl group and/or a carboxyalkyl group.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein ~~the a~~ raw material polysaccharide into which the active ester group is introduced is a polysaccharide which contains neither a carboxyl group nor a carboxyalkyl group by itself.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the alkaline condition is in ~~the a~~ pH range of from 7.5 to 12.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the adhesion preventive material further ~~comprising~~ comprises a polymer other than the cross-linking polysaccharide derivative.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the adhesion preventive material further ~~comprising~~ comprises a pH adjuster in a ~~non-mixed~~ mixed state with the cross-linking polysaccharide derivative.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 33, wherein the adhesion preventive material further comprises a polymer other than the cross-linking polysaccharide derivative.

Claims 35 - 39 (Canceled)